

WORCESTER—AN ALL-AMERICAN CITY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to inform my colleagues that the City of Worcester, Massachusetts has won the National Civic League's All America City Award five times in the history of the fifty-one year program: 1949, 1960, 1965, 1981, and 2000. Worcester is a city that the National Civic League credits with being able to solve community problems.

On Thursday, May 24th the city will host an All-America City Celebration in Worcester City Hall when city officials and community partners will unveil five permanently-mounted plaques to commemorate this achievement.

The Worcester City Council, Worcester School Committee, Superintendent Dr. James Caradonio, the Central Massachusetts Legislative Delegation, All America City Delegates, municipal department heads, and community partners will be invited to participate in this event. Reverend Richard Wright and Mrs. Shirley Wright, Community Co-Chairs for the City's successful bid for the Award one year ago, will serve as moderators for the occasion. The event will include a brief speaking program, refreshments, and music by the Worcester Firefighters Pipe and Drum Brigade. It should be quite a party.

As Tom Hoover, Worcester's City Manager, noted: "I am very proud of our collective work to improve the lives of others and ultimately this community; it is the right thing to do!"

Mr. Speaker, I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of Worcester for this remarkable achievement.

RECOGNIZING JUDY JAMES FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SONOMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize Judy James, who is retiring after twelve years of service as the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

In the past twelve years, agriculture in Sonoma County has undergone profound changes. New pests and diseases have threatened production, farmers and ranchers have had to resist urban encroachment and development pressures, and environmental regulations have restricted some agricultural practices. The Farm Bureau, under the leadership of Ms. James, has successfully guided its members by adapting to these changing times.

Ms. James has always been a creative and dedicated advocate for Sonoma County agriculture.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

She developed the Government Executive Institute program to educate local policy makers about the challenges faced by Sonoma County farmers and ranchers. The Sonoma County Farm Bureau received the first of its three national awards from the American Farm Bureau Federation for this program.

Ms. James also created the Ag-Education Contribution Fund that is supported by Farm Bureau members. Funds raised through this program are used to promote Sonoma County agriculture in the local schools.

Under her direction, the Bureau's annual Crab Feed grew from serving 100 people to serving more than 600 people, thereby generating more than \$15,000 annually for Farm Bureau activities.

Although Ms. James is retiring from a leadership role in the Farm Bureau, she will continue to be an active member. She will help her husband run the family vineyard, assist her children on their 4-H livestock projects, and teach agriculture classes at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Mr. Speaker, because of Judy James' many contributions to the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and to her community, it is fitting and proper to honor her today.

INTRODUCING THE FATAL GRADE CROSSING ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS ACT

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Fatal Grade Crossing Accident Investigations Act" to require the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate all crashes between a train and a road vehicle that result in a fatality.

The NTSB is currently charged with investigating a variety of transportation and pipeline accidents, some of which result in no loss of life or even injury. However, freight trains and cars collide 4,000 times a year resulting in 400 deaths. The NTSB gathers these statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration and feels that its work is done. Meanwhile, the NTSB is the only agency with the authority to fully investigate these fatal crashes, and its failure to do so leaves a vacuum where families have to fight with railroad companies for answers and local law enforcement agencies are powerless to help them. In some cases, the family of a lost loved one must sue the railroad for the train engine's data recorder or results of toxicology tests that railroads conduct on employees involved in a crash. The NTSB has the authority to collect this information—if it chooses to investigate the accident. My bill requires the National Transportation Safety Board to put its resources to work where a loss of life occurs on any railroad crossing.

I am offering this bill with support from a group called Citizens Against Railroad Tragedies which brought to my attention the serious gap that exists in car-train accident investigations. I encourage all Members of the House to hear the concerns of their constituents who

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are associated with this group and to help us eliminate railroad crossing accidents by increasing the safety at intersections and investigating the crashes that tragically still occur everyday across our country.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM WILKINSON

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor a very special man—Dr. William Wilkinson, a long time physician and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Beverly Hospital in Montebello, California. Today, in recognition of Dr. Wilkinson's numerous contributions to the hospital and community at large, a record of achievements and service spanning more than 40 years, Beverly Hospital will dedicate its new Senior Resource Center in his name and establish the "Dr. William Wilkinson Nursing Education Fund."

Dr. Wilkinson has a long litany of accomplishments which speak to his sense of duty and responsibility to the sick, to his profession and to the community that is so much a part of his life. He has been on the Beverly Hospital Board of Directors since 1971 and also served as its President; was an official physician for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles; a member of the Founding Board of Directors of MERCI—Mentally and Emotionally Retarded Children (1962); a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Family Medicine at the University of California at Irvine (1974–1988); an Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Southern California beginning in 1980; and a Trustee on the Beverly Hospital Foundation Board. In addition, Dr. Wilkinson was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Teacher of the Year (1986–1987) while at the University of California at Irvine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. William Wilkinson for his selfless and untiring efforts on behalf of others. His devotion to his work and his commitment to others—the needy, the poor, the sick, the young and old alike—have endeared him to so many of his fellow medical professionals and to the countless people who have received his comfort, advice and professional care. It is indeed fitting today that we honor Dr. Wilkinson for all he has done to make life better for so many.

POWER TEAM WEEK, KENNESAW, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the dates Monday, May 28th through Sunday,